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Top U.S. officials pay tribute to victims of embassy bombing

By Arnold B. Sawislak
United Press International

WASHINGTON — With a declaration that "peace cannot be killed by killing the peacemakers" and a pledge to continue the quest, official Washington yesterday paid solemn tribute to the victims of last week's U.S. Embassy bombing in Beirut.

"We will not be deterred by the cowardly acts of terrorists," Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam told more than 3,000 people assembled in the towering nave of the National Cathedral for a memorial service honoring 17 Americans and 32 others, most of them Lebanese, who were killed in the attack.

"Peace cannot be killed by killing the peacemakers," said Dam, who is serving as acting secretary of state while Secretary George P. Shultz is in the Middle East seeking withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. "The work of our colleagues will be carried on, and peace will be restored to the troubled land."

Dam called the tragedy "a collective loss, to the United States, to the people of Lebanon and to all who desire peace."

Of the Americans, he said, "They

represented us; they were among the best of us. And it was because they worked for us to bring peace to others that they were the target of this cowardly attack.

"If we grow tired in the pursuit of peace, their courage and perseverance will inspire us. If we grow callous in the face of suffering, their sacrifice will humble us."

Vice President Bush was seated with the survivors of the American dead in the cathedral, an interdenominational Gothic church that dominates the highest hill of Washington.

Some of the survivors were elderly couples, helping each other as they moved slowly into the church. Others were what remained of young families, red-eyed young women and bewildered children.

To one side, in the transept, sat Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger, high-ranking officials of the diplomatic and military agencies whose employees died in the blast, and the diplomatic corps, led by Soviet Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin.

As a Marine brass ensemble played hymns, Episcopal Bishop John T. Walker, the Rev. Charles Perry, pro-

vost of the cathedral, and the Rev. William Lori followed a robed cross-bearer and the flags of the United States, Lebanon and Tunisia into the cathedral. One Tunisian was among the known dead.

Bishop Walker offered solace to the survivors and exhorted all assembled "to pray for peace in this troubled world."

After the cathedral's 30-voice choir and its thunderous organ led the participants in the hymn "St. Anne," the 40-minute service ended.

Three of the Americans who died in the embassy blast had Philadelphia connections.

Albert Votaw, who worked for the Agency for International Development, grew up in Chester County, and his parents live in Philadelphia. A special memorial service for Votaw will be held in Washington's National Cathedral at noon today, his family has announced.

Robert C. Ames was the chief CIA analyst in the agency's Philadelphia office, and Janet Lee Stevens, a freelance journalist, was a graduate student at Pennsylvania University.